



Environment, Health & Safety Alert

Subject:

ROAD SAFETY BARRIER SYSTEMS

From: Graeme Mauger

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Barricades

Incident: On one of our projects this week a combination physical barrier jersey kerb/protective fence was blown over during high winds, the fence was correctly connected, “apparently” contained the correct amount of water counterweight and had shade cloth for dust suppression. Fortunately no person was injured. WorkCover has attended site and undertook an inspection and found that the water filled road barrier system were not to standard, as they were not filled with water owing to cracks in the individual barriers. An Improvement Notice was issued to the subcontractor

Issues with use of Water Filled Road Safety Barriers

- The integrity of the barriers is difficult to maintain as they are often damaged when re-positioned or hit by plant and vehicles
- The need of a regular inspection program to ensure barrier integrity ie leaks, pins in place, cables in place, valves not leaking, position, etc. (The project at present are undertaking twice daily inspections)
- Developing appropriate safe work method statements for the erection alteration and dismantle of the road barrier system.
- The wasted water in these times of drought.

Your Project Actions

- Ensure the road safety barricade system is erected to manufacturers specification and it meets the current Australian Standard (AS 3845). Any alterations ie additional fence/shade cloth meets design and installation certification.
- Ensure the road safety barricade system is regularly inspected and maintained to ensure integrity when it is needed ie the plastic is not cracked losing water, damaged panels leaning into the path of traffic, gives true delineation lines, does not pose a bigger risk by blocking view of sight for motorist, etc
- Please review your future needs and where possible eliminate some of the above hazard by using an alternative road safety barrier systems (ie concrete, steel, etc).
- Update your Project risk assessment, disseminate the information to the team, subcontractors and employee’s (toolbox meeting) and review that any amended action taken was appropriate

If you need any assistance to review your risks please call your EH&S Managers.